

WASHINGTON (January 18) - Calling it a way to honor their service to America, Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) is urging Members of Congress to invite Iraq war veterans to attend next Tuesday's State of the Union Address in the U.S. Capitol.

In a bipartisan letter today, Congressman Bachus and Representatives Jeff Miller (FL), Tim Walz (MN), and Marcia Fudge (OH) asked colleagues to make a special effort to invite returning veterans to the House gallery for the Presidential address.

Bachus said his personal guest will be Noah Galloway of Alabaster, who was severely wounded in Iraq and has since become a spokesman for injured veterans.

"It is because of the dedication and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform that we can meet in freedom under the dome of the Capitol for State of the Union Address. Their service should be recognized and appreciated. It will be a privilege to have these heroes in the House chamber for this important national event. Personally, I will be honored to have Noah Galloway as my guest. Noah served our country with valor during two tours of duty in Iraq and his courage in overcoming the severe injuries he suffered in battle is a source of inspiration," said Congressman Bachus.

Galloway served as a member of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, in the 101st Airborne

Division's 502nd Infantry Brigade in Iraq. He lost his left leg and left arm in a bomb explosion in 2005. Now fitted with prosthetic devices, he has traveled and spoken nationally on behalf of injured veterans.

"It is an honor to have the senior member of the Alabama House delegation invite me to the State of the Union Address. The fact that four congressmen from both sides of the aisle have joined together, even though their political views may be different, shows a lot of respect for our troops and veterans," Galloway said.

According to the letter sent by Bachus and his colleagues to all House lawmakers, "It is a longstanding tradition to invite national and local figures to the address who have made a positive impact on our country. We can think of no one who has made more of a positive impact on our country than our troops."